

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

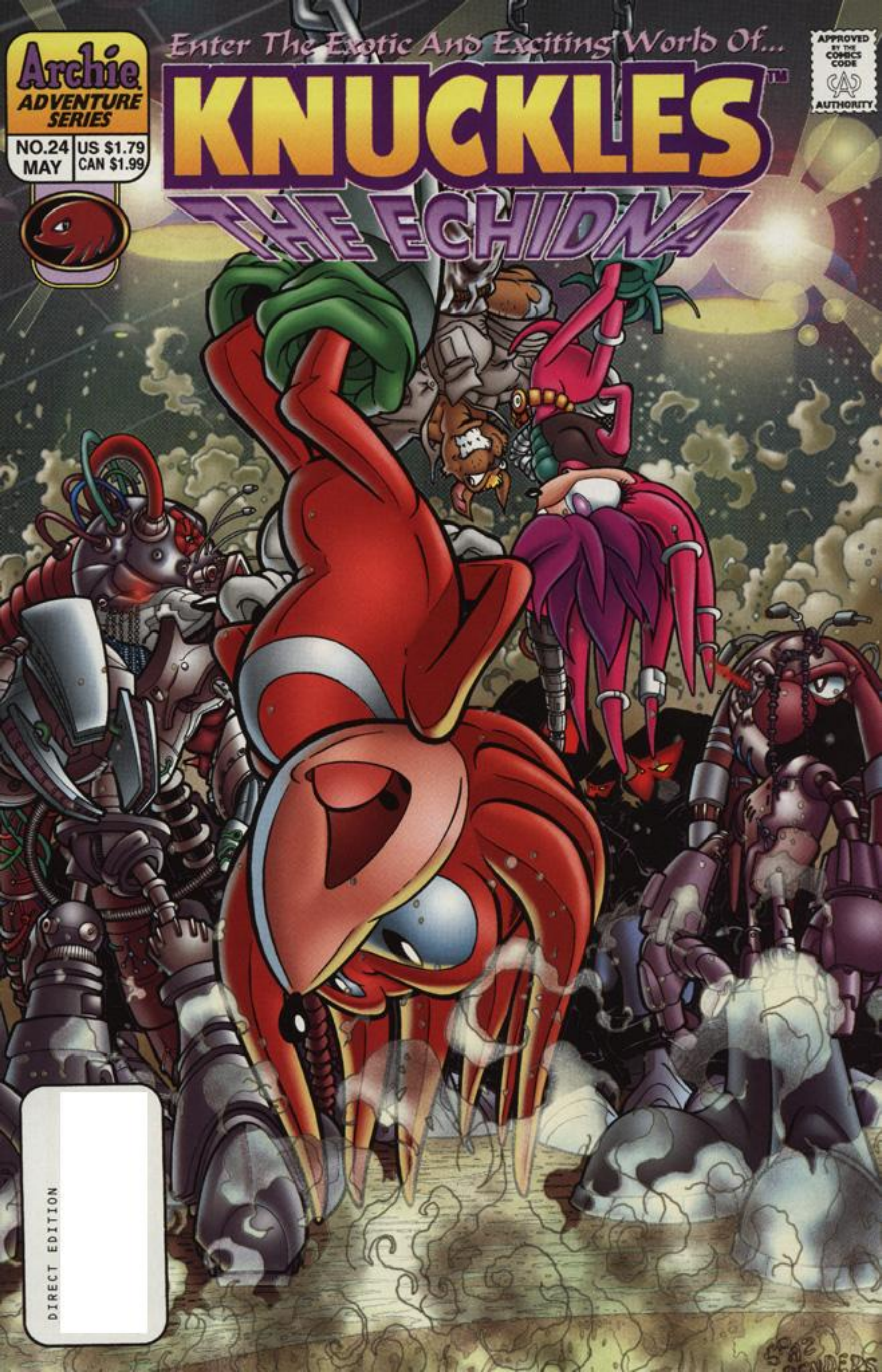
NO.24 US \$1.79
MAY CAN \$1.99

Enter The Exotic And Exciting World Of...

KNUCKLES™

THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



DIRECT EDITION

542
ENDERS

KNUCKLESTM

BOOK TWENTY-FOUR
DARK ALLIANCE

PART THREE OF THREE

KEN PENDERS

WRITER

JIM VALENTINO

PENCILER

HARVEY MERCADOOCASIO

INKER

FRANK GAGLIARDO

COLORIST

VICKIE WILLIAMS

LETTERER

J.F. GABRIE

EDITOR

VICTOR GORELICK

MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT...
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!



Knuckles The Echidna, No. 24, May 1999. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.79 in the U.S.; \$1.99 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S., \$21.48 for 12 issues; \$23.88 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Knuckles The Echidna and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of SEGA. © 1999 SEGA. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to Knuckles The Echidna, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

I THOUGHT I'D
FIND YOU *HERE*!

NOT *NOW*,
SPECTRE!

ARCHIMEDES
AND I ARE OFF TO
ECHIDNAPOLIS
TO HELP OUT
KNUCKLES!

IT'S *IMPORTANT*
THAT YOU RETURN WITH
ME TO *HAVEN*!

EXCUSE ME--

--BUT WHAT COULD
BE *MORE IMPORTANT*
THAN MY SON?

HAVEN HAS
BEEN *INVADED* BY
THE *DARK LEGION*,
LOCKE!

I DON'T BELIEVE
I NEED TO DRAW YOU A
MAP TO UNDERSCORE THE
IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT
THAT MEANS!

SHOULD OUR
INNERMOST SECRETS BE
PENETRATED--!

KNUCKLES IS NOW BEING
HELD *CAPTIVE* BY OUR MOST
DANGEROUS ENEMY!

HOW CAN I *ABANDON*
HIM WHEN HE *NEEDS*
ME THE MOST?

HE'LL STAND
EVEN *LESS* OF A
CHANCE SHOULD
DIMITRI UNCOVER
THAT WHICH WE'VE
HIDDEN FOR SO
LONG, LOCKE!

SHOULD YOU GO
TO HIS SIDE AND
HAVEN FALLS--



--I WOULDN'T
LAY ODDS ON
ANYONE'S
CHANCES FOR
SURVIVAL!

BAMF!

WE'RE IN THE
LOWER LEVELS!

BEEN A LONG
TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN
DOWN HERE!

THIS IS ALSO
THE ONLY AREA
THROUGH WHICH WE
CAN GAIN ACCESS
WITH THE ELEMENT
OF SURPRISE ON
OUR SIDE!

YOU BETTER BE
RIGHT ABOUT ALL
THIS, SPECTRE--

PRIMARY

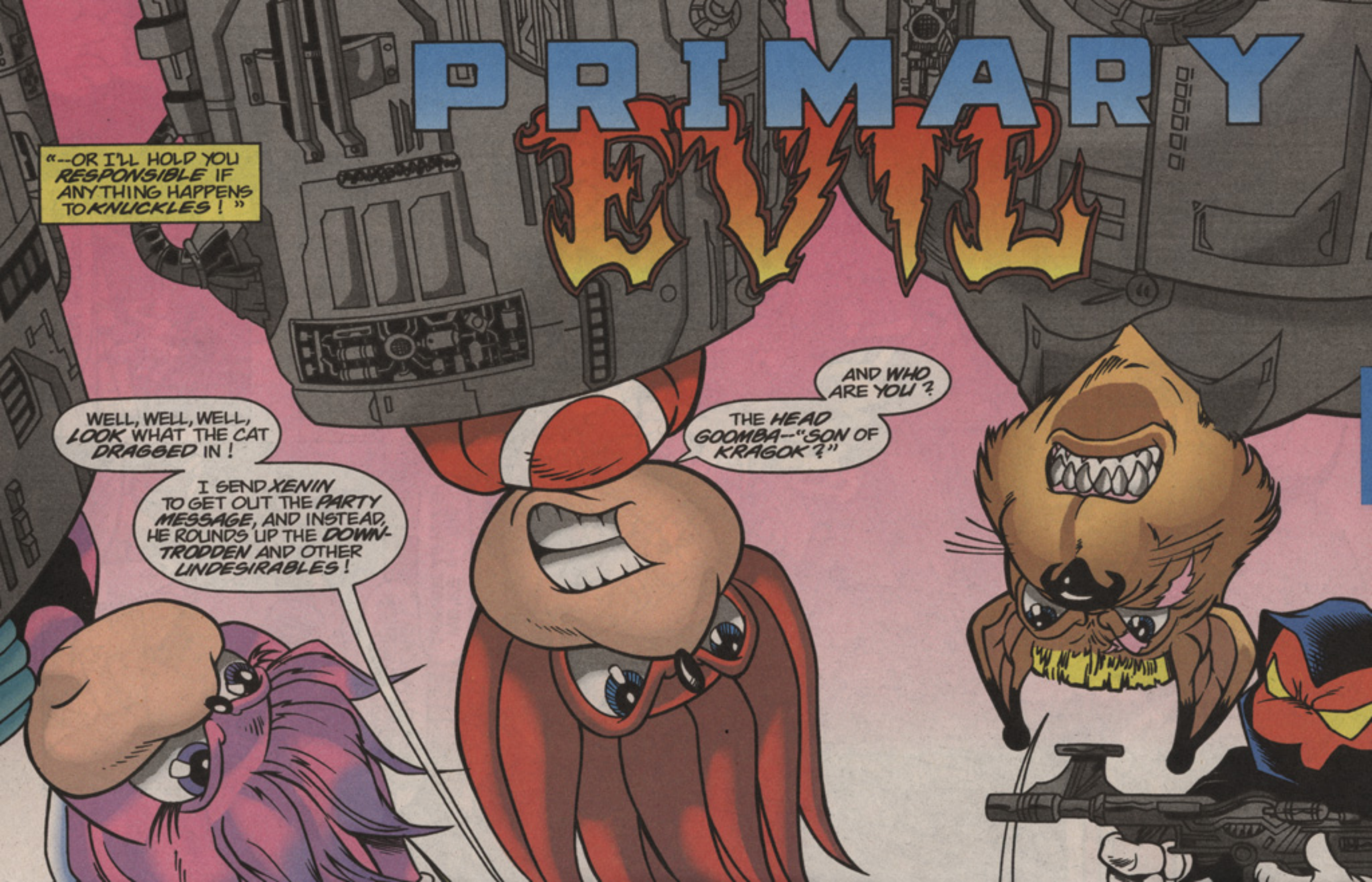
"--OR I'LL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO KNUCKLES!"

WELL, WELL, WELL, LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN!

I SEND XENIN TO GET OUT THE PARTY MESSAGE, AND INSTEAD, HE ROUNDS UP THE DOWN-TRODDEN AND OTHER UNDESIRABLES!

AND WHO ARE YOU?

THE HEAD GOOMBA--"SON OF KRAGOK?"





DON'T
PUSH YOUR LUCK,
GUARDIAN!

THE HONORED
DIMITRI IS NOT ONE
TO BE ADDRESSED IN SUCH
A DISRESPECTFUL
TONE!

DIMITRI?!
HERE?!
ALIVE?!!!

I ALWAYS
KNEW YOU ECHIDNAS
WERE NOT TO BE
TRUSTED!

YOU'D EVEN
TURN ON ONE OF YOUR
OWN KIND!

AH, BUT THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE *MISTAKEN*, MY DINGO FRIEND!

I'VE *NEVER* BEEN ONE TO *TURN ON* MY OWN KIND!

HAH!

I SEE WE HAVE A *DISSENTER!*

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!

IF YOU ARE DIMITRI-- AND IF I HAVE MY STORY *STRAIGHT*--

--YOU WERE ON TRACK TO *ENSLAVE* YOUR OWN PEOPLE UNTIL YOUR OWN *BROTHER* PUT THE BAG ON THAT PLAN!

MY LATE BROTHER, EDMUND, WAS A *DUPE* OF THE *STATE*!

SAY, WHAT?

THE *CREATIONISTS* RUNNING THE *HIGH COUNCIL* AT THE TIME STILL HADN'T FORGIVEN THE *TECHNOCRACY* FOR SAVING THE FLOATING ISLAND FROM THE WHITE COMET--

--AND SINCE THEY WERE *AFRAID* THAT MY EFFORTS TO *RESTORE* THE ISLAND TO ITS *ORIGINAL SITE* WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER IN *FAVOR* OF THE *TECHNOCRACY*--

--THEY *USED* MY BROTHER AS THEIR *TOOL* TO *SUPPRESS* THE *TECHNOCRACY*!

THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--

-- *RESTORING* OUR SOCIETY TO THE WAY THINGS *USED TO BE*!

YOU MEAN WE USED TO BE A BUNCH OF *THUGS* WHO *BEAT* THE *WEAK* AND *HELPLESS*?

"THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THE YOUTH OF TODAY--NO SENSE OF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE!"

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO DO ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION!

WHAT CURRENT SITUATION?

ARE YOU SAYING ECHIDNAPOLIS IS ANYTHING BUT THE EPITOME OF PEACE AND HARMONY OUR PEOPLE BELIEVE IT TO BE?

TOUCHE'!

ALL RIGHT, THEN, ALLOW ME TO LAY MY CARDS ON THE TABLE!

--HAVING DECLARED HE IS NO LONGER RUNNING FOR OFFICE, HIGH COUNCILOR PRAVDA HAS ESSENTIALLY REDUCED HIMSELF TO THE STATUS OF NON-ENTITY!

AS FOR YOU, CONSTABLE--

--YOU ARE AN APPOINTED OFFICIAL TO A NON-POLITICAL POSITION!

THE WAY I SEE IT--

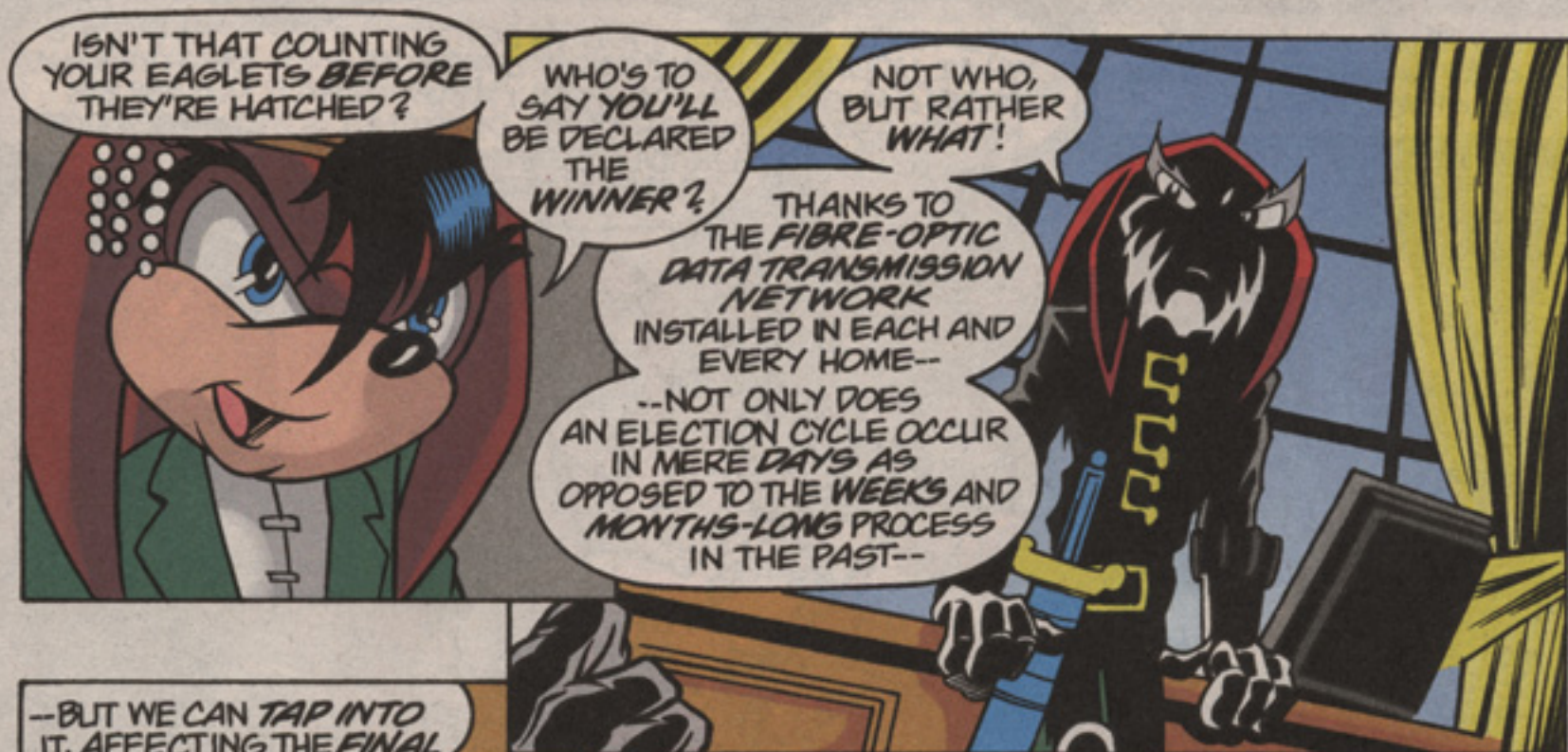
BASED ON HIS REACTION, IT WOULD SEEM MY FRIEND CONCURS!

THAT MEANS YOU CAN BE REPLACED!

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, IN ONLY A FEW SHORT HOURS, WILL HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE YOURS A LIFETIME APPOINTMENT--

--ANSWERABLE TO NONE, SAVE ME--

--AND ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS SWEAR LINDYING LOYALTY TO ME!



ISN'T THAT COUNTING YOUR EAGLETS *BEFORE* THEY'RE HATCHED?

WHO'S TO SAY YOU'LL BE DECLARED THE *WINNER*?

NOT WHO, BUT RATHER *WHAT*!

THANKS TO THE *FIBRE-OPTIC DATA TRANSMISSION NETWORK* INSTALLED IN EACH AND EVERY HOME--

--NOT ONLY DOES AN ELECTION CYCLE OCCUR IN MERE *DAYS* AS OPPOSED TO THE *WEEKS* AND *MONTHS-LONG* PROCESS IN THE PAST--

--BUT WE CAN *TAP INTO* IT, AFFECTING THE *FINAL OUTCOME*!

VOTE EARLY, VOTE *OFTEN*, EH?

SUPPOSE I DECIDE *NOT* TO GO ALONG WITH THE *PLAN*?



I VERY MUCH *DOUBT* THAT!

LIKE *EVERYONE ELSE*, CONSTABLE, YOU HAVE YOUR *SECRETS*--



--SOMETHING IN YOUR *PAST*-- SOMETHING YOU THOUGHT WOULD ALWAYS STAY *HIDDEN*--SOMETHING YOU'D RATHER OTHERS *NEVER FIND OUT*!

HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH TO YOU FOR IT TO *REMAIN A SECRET*?



"NOW THAT WE *UNDER-
STAND* EACH OTHER, HERE
IS WHAT YOU *WILL* DO..."

YOU KNOW
WHAT YOUR
PROBLEM IS,
KNUCKLES?

YOU'VE BEEN
SO *CONDITIONED* TO
THINKING ONLY A *CERTAIN*
WAY, THAT IT'S DIFFICULT
FOR YOU TO SEE THE *OTHER*
SIDE OF THE COIN!

THAT TYPE
OF THINKING
CAN BE
DANGEROUS--

--SO WE
EITHER **DEAL**
WITH IT OR
ELIMINATE
IT!

LAST TIME I REMEMBER,
YOU WEREN'T TOO KEEN ON
MY **GOOD HEALTH!***

NOW THAT YOU
MENTION IT--

--I'VE HAD MORE THAN
AMPLE TIME TO REFLECT UPON
THOSE EARLY MEETINGS--

--AND AS I **ENDURED**
THOSE LONG MONTHS OF
RECONSTRUCTION BEFORE
OLD AGE ALMOST TOOK ME,
I REALIZED THERE HAD TO
BE SOMETHING-**SPECIAL**--
ABOUT YOU IN ORDER FOR
YOU TO **PREVAIL** AGAINST MY
LIMITLESS POWER!

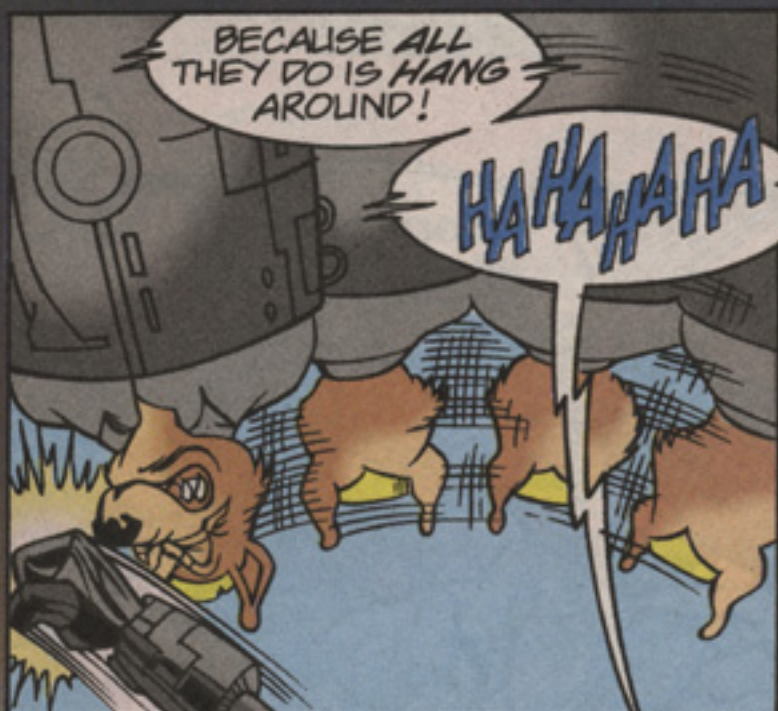
* AS SHOWN IN DARK
VENGEANCE STORYLINE
IN KNUCKLES #7
THROUGH 9--J.F.G.

BY LEARNING
WHAT MAKES
YOU **TICK**--

"...PERHAPS A MEANS CAN
BE FOUND TO *RESTORE*
WHAT WAS ONCE *MINE*!"

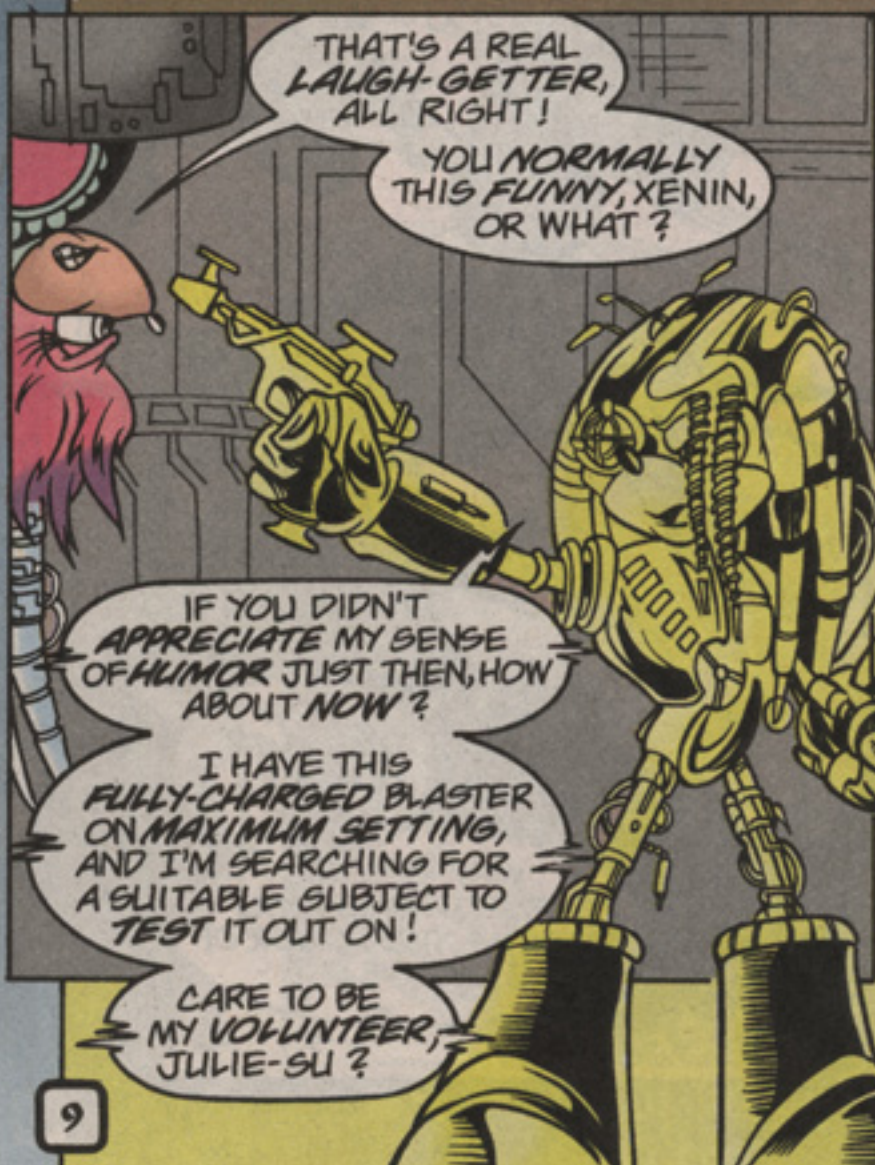


NO?



BECAUSE ALL
THEY DO IS HANG
AROUND!

HAHAHAHA



THAT'S A REAL
LAUGH-GETTER,
ALL RIGHT!

YOU NORMALLY
THIS FUNNY, XENIN,
OR WHAT?

IF YOU DIDN'T
APPRECIATE MY SENSE
OF HUMOR JUST THEN, HOW
ABOUT NOW?

I HAVE THIS
FULLY-CHARGED BLASTER
ON MAXIMUM SETTING,
AND I'M SEARCHING FOR
A SUITABLE SUBJECT TO
TEST IT OUT ON!

CARE TO BE
MY VOLUNTEER,
JULIE-SU?

DID YOU HEAR WHY
DINGDOES ARE GENERALLY
CONSIDERED THE LAZIEST,
MOST SHIFTLESS FURBALLS
AROUND?



SO THIS IS HAVEN, EH?

SEEMS A LOT LIKE OUR LAST SET-UP!*

*AS SEEN IN KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION #1 THROUGH 3--JUSTIN.



I THOUGHT THESE GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AGAINST US!

INSTEAD, THEY COME ACROSS MORE LIKE US!



DON'T LET ANY OF THIS FOOL YOU!

IF PAST HISTORY IS ANY INDICATION--



YOU GOT THAT **RIGHT!**

--THERE'S NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN EITHER SIDE--ugh!

OOF!

WUUMPH!

WHAAAM



HOW VULGAR OF YOU, LOCKE!

WHY RESORT TO FISTS WHEN YOU POSSESS THE POWER OF THE EMERALD?



BECAUSE IT FELT MORE HONEST USING MY FISTS TO DO THE DIRTY WORK!

C'MON!

"THE BATTLE'S ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED!"

WELL, CONSTABLE--
WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?

IRREGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE YOU MAY HAVE ON ME, BENEDICT--

--I SIMPLY CAN'T GO ALONG WITH YOU!

MAYBE IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SELL OUT, BUT I'M NOT WILLING TO PAY THAT PRICE!

WHAAT?!

DO YOU REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR DECISION, REMINGTON??

YES! I DO!

AND THAT'S "CONSTABLE" REMINGTON TO YOU!

TAKE IT UP WITH HIGH COUNCILOR PRAVDA!

HE'S OUTLIVED HIS USEFULNESS, ANYWAY!

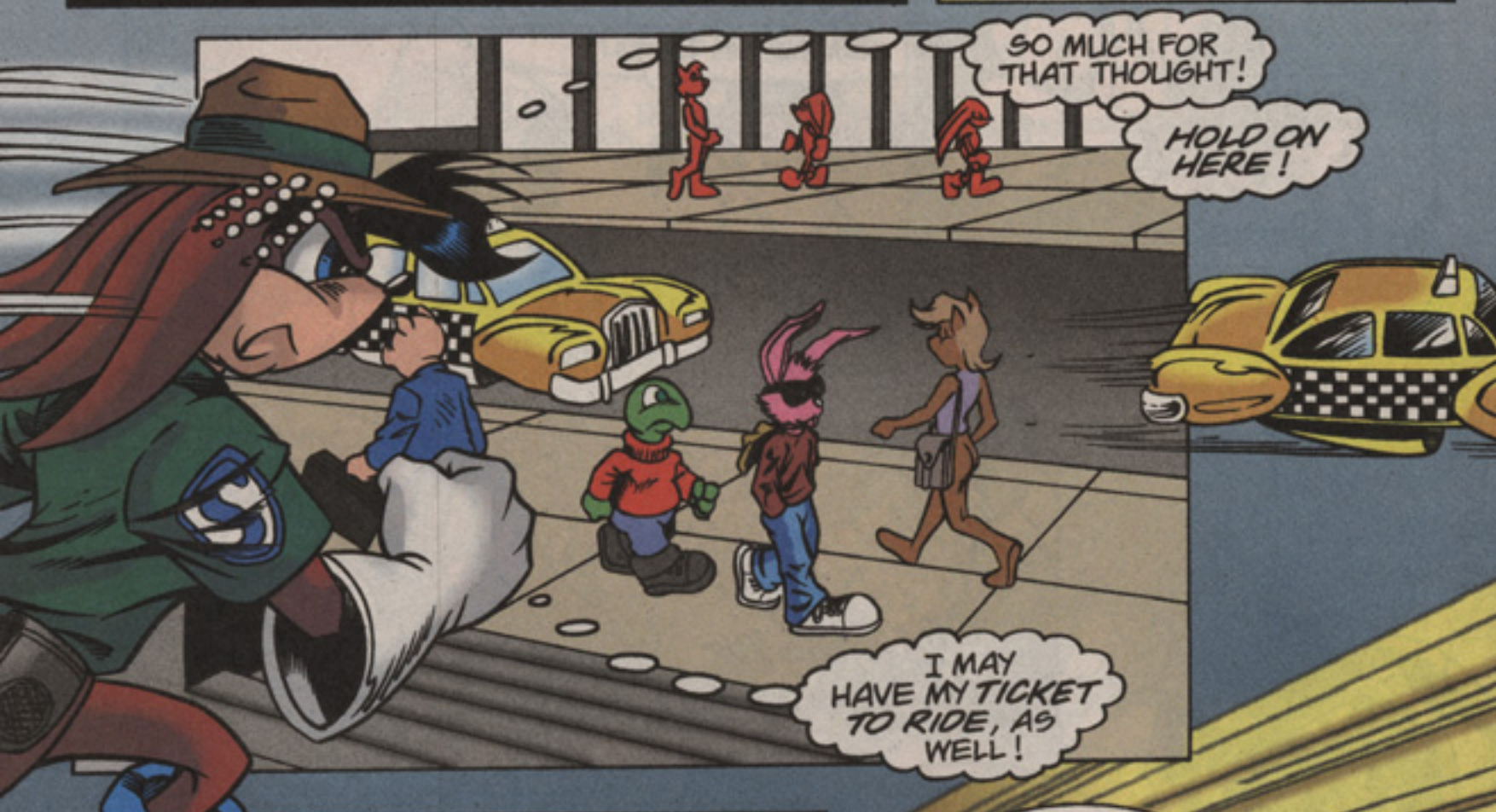
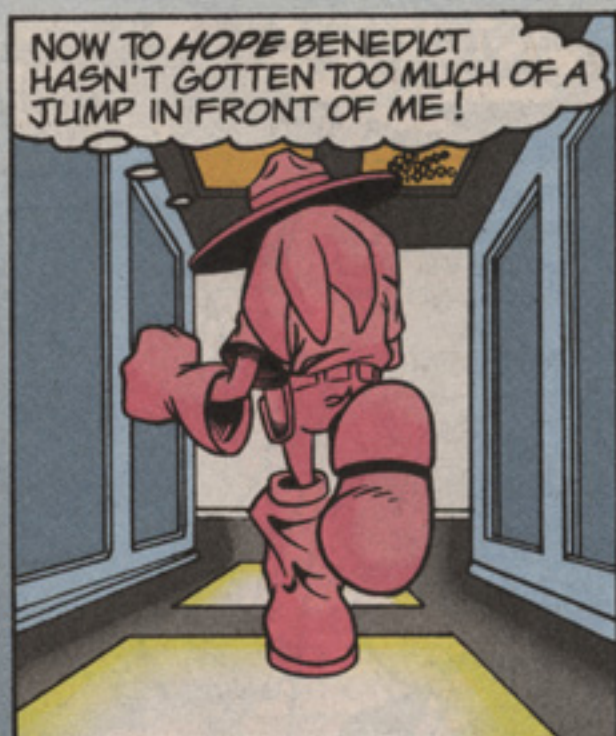
SLAAM!

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--

--I HAVE AN ELECTION TO CLAIM VICTORY OF!

MY APOLOGIES, HIGH COUNCILOR--

--BUT I CAN'T ALLOW YOUR "FRIEND" TO ESCAPE!



"DON'T YOU EVER REQUEST ANYTHING THAT *ISN'T* DETRIMENTAL TO SOMEONE'S HEALTH?"

TAKE A LOOK, SIR!

THE READINGS I'M GETTING FROM THE MAGNETIC IMAGING RESONATOR ARE TOTALLY OFF THE DIAL!

IF **KNUCKLES** IS INDEED THE NATURAL SOURCE OF SUCH ENERGY, THESE READINGS INDICATE HE'S CAPABLE OF GENERATING POWER AKIN TO A CHAOS EMERALD.

CAN IT BE POSSIBLE--?

AND IF WHAT I'M THINKING IS CORRECT, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN A GREAT MANY THINGS.

CAN YOU DETERMINE WHETHER THE CAUSE FOR THIS ANOMALY IS NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL IN ORIGIN?

SIR, THE RESONATOR DOESN'T SHOW A TRACE OF ANY ARTIFICIAL IMPLANTS, ENHANCEMENTS OR DEVICES OF ANY KIND!

NOT EVEN ON A SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL!

AFTER ALL, I GAINED MY POWER THROUGH THE MEANS OF A CHAOS SYPHON!

BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE ACTUALLY DARED TO BIOENGINEER THE ULTIMATE ECHIDNA--

--TO WHAT LIMIT WOULD THAT INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITIES EXTEND?

SIR!! THE ALARM!!!

BRAAK!
BRAAK!
BRAAK!

AVAILABLE IN U.S. & CANADA ONLY. All Canadian orders must be payable in U.S. funds. **PLEASE ALLOW 6 - 8 WEEKS DELIVERY.**



TECHNICIAN!
WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?

SIR, THE RESONATOR
IS OVERLOADING!

I'M TRYING TO SHUT
ALL SYSTEMS DOWN, BUT
NOTHING'S WORKING!

"EVEN THE CIRCUIT
BREAKERS
ARE BLOWING!"

"IT'S AS IF WE WERE
PLUGGED INTO A
LIMITLESS POWER
SOURCE AND COULDN'T
DISCONNECT!"

CAN WE CONTAIN THE
POWER SURGES? LIMIT THEM
ONLY TO THE IMMEDIATE
VICINITY?

HIGHLY
DOUBTFUL,
SIR!

SYSTEM
AFTER SYSTEM IS
COLLAPSING!

OUR ENTIRE
NETWORK IS NOW IN
JEOPARDY!

WHAT ABOUT
KNUCKLES?

CAN WE EXTRACT
HIM SAFELY OUT OF
THE CHAMBER?

UNKNOWN,
SIR!

AT THE PRESENT
RATE OF RADIATION DISCHARGE,
THE ENVIRONMENT INSIDE
THE CHAMBER WILL BE
UNINHABITABLE IN LESS THAN
FIFTEEN MINUTES!

ARE
THERE ANY OTHER
OPTIONS STILL OPEN,
TECHNICIAN?

YOU CAN
EITHER GIVE THE
ORDER TO EVACUATE,
SIR--

"...OR YOU CAN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE SOURCE OF OUR PROBLEM NOW LYING INSIDE THE CHAMBER!"

HELLO! END OF THE LINE!

HARRY!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

KEEP GOING!!!

ARE YOU NUTS, CONSTABLE?!

DID YOU SEE WHERE BENEDICT CHECKED INTO?

THAT'S THE TECHNOLOGY NOW CAMPAIGN HEAD-QUARTERS!

WORD ON THE STREET IS YOU DON'T WANNA MESS WITH THESE GUYS!

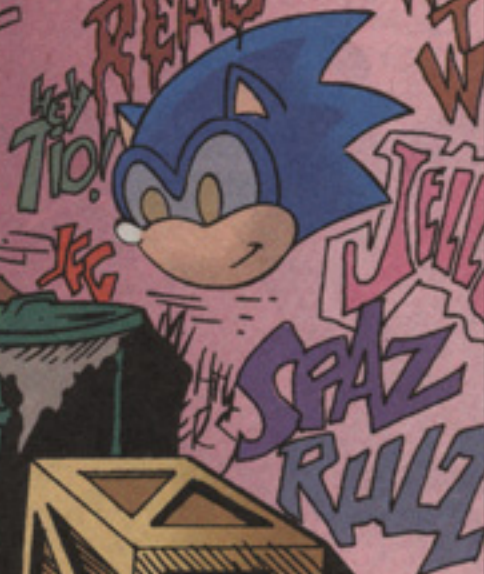
EASY, HARRY!

WE AREN'T GOING TO ATTEMPT A FRONTAL ASSAULT!

MAKE A RIGHT AND LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND A WAY IN THROUGH THE BACK!

I GOT A BAAAD FEELING ABOUT THIS, CONSTABLE!

WOULDN'T THE SMART THING TO DO FIRST IS CALL YOUR TROOPS IN FOR BACK-UP?



"NORMALLY, IT WOULD BE HARRY, BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT SURE WHO TO TRUST!"

COME IN, KOMMISAR!

DIMITRI IS MOST ANXIOUS TO HEAR YOUR REPORT!

MORITORI REX AND I HAVE BEEN THROUGH THIS PLACE MOST THOROUGHLY--

--AND THE CONSENSUS IS IT WOULD SUIT OUR NEEDS PERFECTLY!

I'LL WAGER IT'S OUR LONG LOST BIRDIES COME HOME TO ROOST!

BE ON GUARD FOR ANYTHING!

ESPECIALLY SPECTRE!

WHAT ABOUT THE GUARDIANS?

ARE THEY ALL ACCOUNTED FOR?

ALL BUT TWO!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, HOWEVER--

BLIIP!

WHA--?!!

GRAND-FATHER!! WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH CENTRAL COMMAND!!

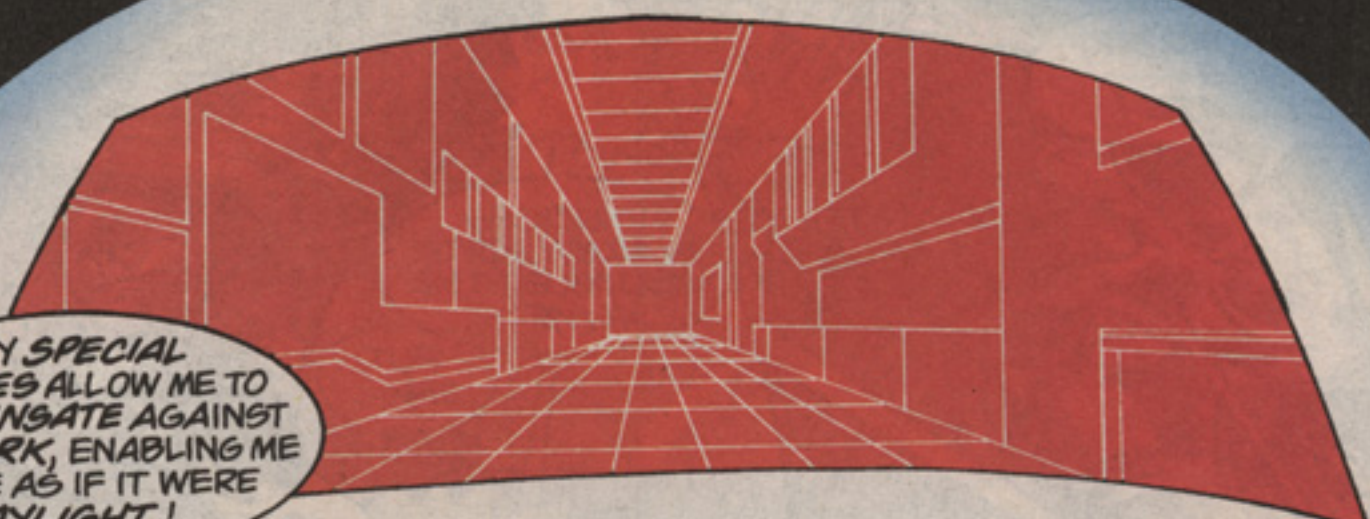
THE LIGHTS!! BUT HOW?

OUR TROOPS ARE EVERYWHERE THROUGHOUT!

RELAX, KOMMISAR! I KNOW ALL OF THEIR SECRETS--

--AND I KNOW HOW TO USE THIS LABYRINTH TO OUR ADVANTAGE!

FOLLOW ME!



MY SPECIAL
LENSES ALLOW ME TO
COMPENSATE AGAINST
THE DARK, ENABLING ME
TO SEE AS IF IT WERE
DAYLIGHT!



MY
EYES!



I CAN'T
SEE!!!



I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR
THIS, TREACHEROUS ONE!



THERE'S
MUCH YOU'RE
GOING
TO ANSWER
FOR!

SPECTRE!

HERE
TO EXTRACT
YOUR REVENGE,
NO DOUBT!



AMONG OTHER
THINGS!

I HATE TO
DISAPPOINT YOU,
LOCKE, BUT IT'LL
BE A COLD DAY
IN A HOT PLACE
BEFORE YOU--
SEE--ME--



--BEG-- uhh--



EVERYONE ELSE SHOULD BE
SLEEPING LIKE A BABY, THANKS TO
THE GAS CANNISTERS WE HOOKED UP TO
THE VENTILATION SYSTEM!

BEFORE WE
GET CARRIED
AWAY PATTING
OURSELVES ON
THE BACK--

"--THERE'S STILL A LOT OF WORK LEFT TO DO!"

GIVE THE WORD, SIR,
BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE!

NO!

KNUCKLES
IS MUCH MORE
VALUABLE TO ME
ALIVE!

BUT,
SIR--!

DO IT!

ALL
HANDS ABANDON
STATIONS!!!! I
REPEAT-- ALL
HANDS ABANDON
STATIONS!!!
THIS IS NOT A
DRILL!! THIS
IS NOT A
DRILL!!!

IT'S BEEN
FLIN, PEOPLE,
BUT NOW I HAVE
TO CLEAR THE
AREA!

WAIT!

YOU CAN'T
JUST LEAVE
US HERE
HANGING LIKE
THIS!!

WHY
NOT--

--ALL I SEE
ARE ENEMIES
AND TRAITORS
DESERVING
WHATEVER
HAPPENS TO
THEM!

YOU HEARD
THE COMMAND!!
EVERYONE
CLEAR OUT

Now!!

BUT
WHAT ABOUT
DIMITRI?!

"DIMITRI LEFT ORDERS THAT HE WASN'T TO BE DISTURBED NO MATTER WHAT, AND UNLESS YOU FEEL LIKE SACRIFICING YOUR LIFE BEFORE IT'S TIME, I SUGGEST YOU DO THE SMART THING!"

HOLD ON HERE!
WHERE'S EVERYONE RUNNING OFF TO?

EXPLOSIONS!!! COMING FROM WITHIN!!

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE CAUSE?!

MY SENSORS INDICATE A SURGE OF POWER ON A BUILD-UP!

AT THIS RATE, THERE'LL BE AN IMMENSE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE DISCHARGE--!



--A ROBOT!

C'MON,
HARRY!

LET'S HOPE
WE'RE NOT TOO
LATE TO DO SOME
GOOD!

SO
WHO SAID I
WANTED TO PLAY
HERO?

WHO SAID
YOU HAD A
CHOICE?

WE SEEM
TO HAVE A LOT
OF INJURED
HERE!

OOW!

YOU
ALLRIGHT,
JUHE-SU?

OTHER THAN
A FEW BLIMPS,
SIR--

--I'M FINE!

I SEE
YOU AND THE
TROOPS ARE NO
WORSE FOR WEAR,
GENERAL!

NO THANKS
TO THOSE
MONSTERS!

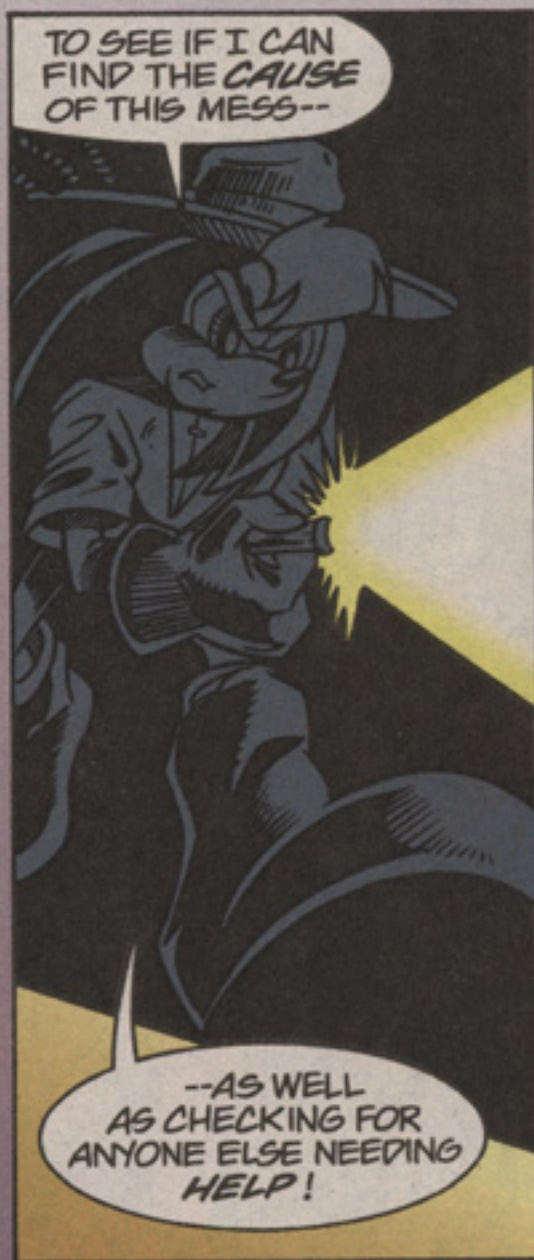
THEY'RE IN SHOCK!

THE
LEGIONNAIRES
APPARENTLY ARE
DEPENDENT UPON THEIR
ENHANCEMENTS FOR
SURVIVAL!

EVERYTHING
ELECTRONIC IN HERE
IS DOWN AND OUT,
CONSTABLE!

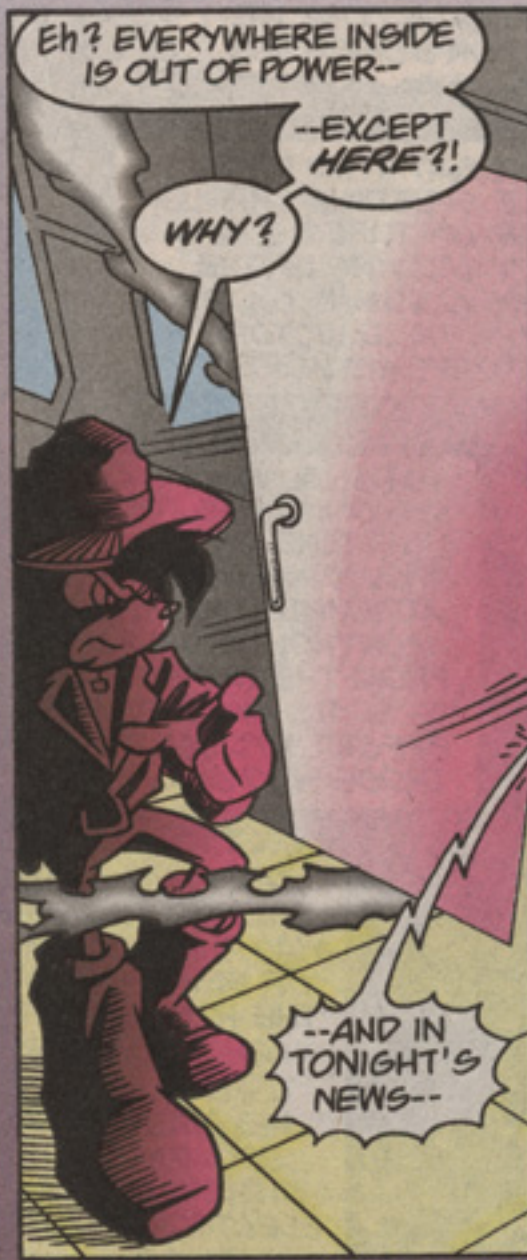
HARRY,
GO FIND A
WORKING
PHONE AND
GET THE
MEDICS IN
HERE!

WHERE
DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
GOING?



TO SEE IF I CAN
FIND THE *CAUSE*
OF THIS MESS--

--AS WELL
AS CHECKING FOR
ANYONE ELSE NEEDING
HELP!

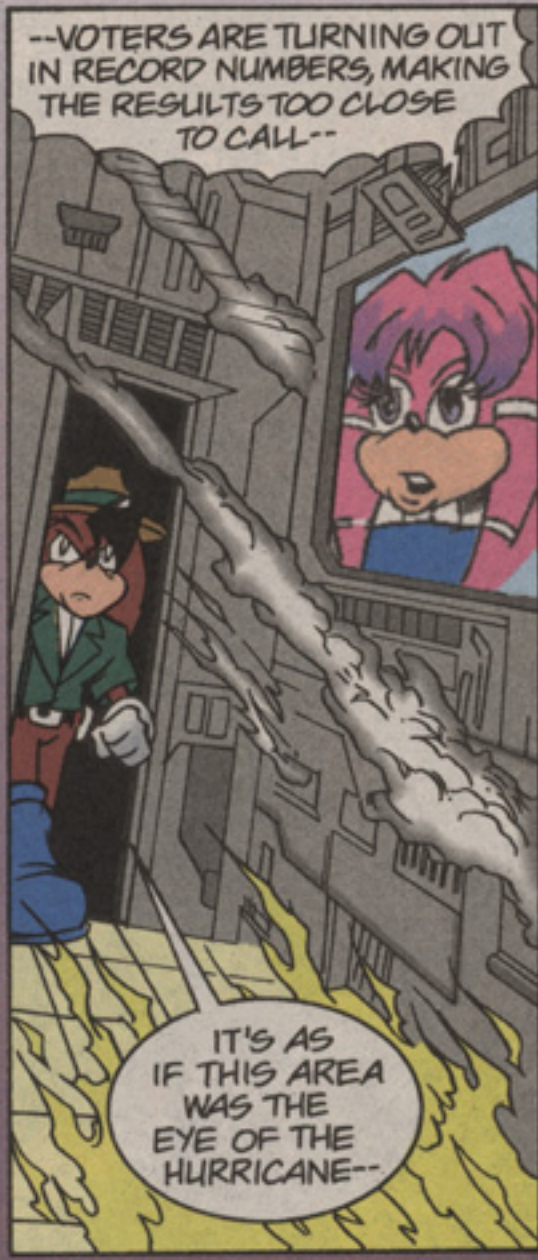


Eh? EVERYWHERE INSIDE
IS OUT OF POWER--

--EXCEPT
HERE?!

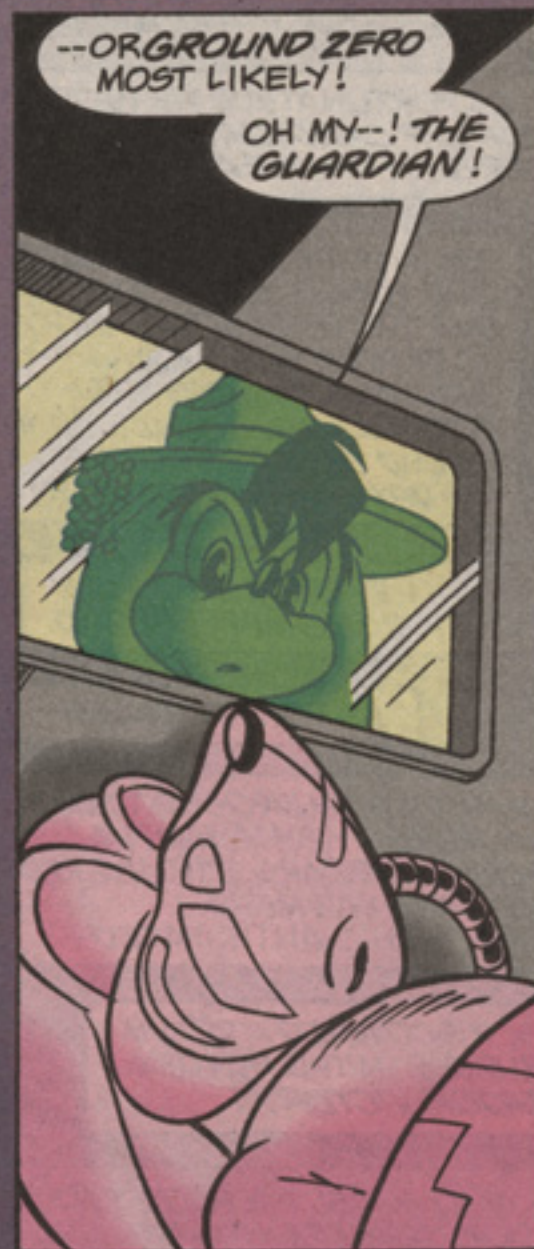
WHY?

--AND IN
TONIGHT'S
NEWS--



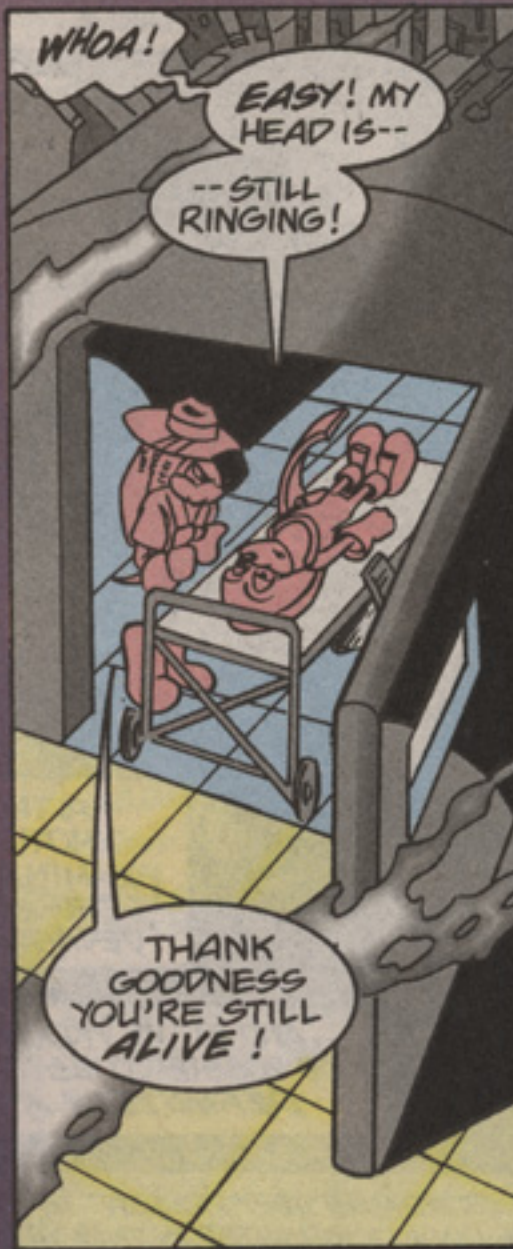
--VOTERS ARE TURNING OUT
IN RECORD NUMBERS, MAKING
THE RESULTS TOO CLOSE
TO CALL--

IT'S AS
IF THIS AREA
WAS THE
EYE OF THE
HURRICANE--



--OR GROUND ZERO
MOST LIKELY!

OH MY--! THE
GUARDIAN!



WHOA!

EASY! MY
HEAD IS--

--STILL
RINGING!

THANK
GOODNESS
YOU'RE STILL
ALIVE!



NO THANKS TO
DIMITRI!

SPEAKING
OF WHICH--

--WHERE
IS HE?

GOOD QUESTION! AND PROBABLY ONE WE WON'T HAVE AN ANSWER TO FOR SOME TIME!

TO SAY THE LEAST, CONSTABLE!

BUT WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT--

--LET EVERYONE BEWARE!

AND AS I SAT IN MY PRIVATE SHUTTLE SPEEDING THROUGH THE SUBWAY TUBES, I WAS ALREADY TALLYING UP THE WIN-LOSS COLUMNS, GAUGING WHAT THE TRUE VICTORIES AND DEFEATS WERE.

AS USUAL IN WAR, MANY LEGIONNAIRES FELL IN THE LINE OF DUTY, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED TO WREST CONTROL OF HAVEN FROM THE GUARDIANS. WE SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LIBERATE THOSE WHO SURVIVED.

THE FIRST MAJOR VICTORY, HOWEVER, WAS THE ELECTION OF BENEDICT TO THE POSITION OF HIGH COUNCILOR. UNFORTUNATELY, HIS CIRCUITS COULDN'T WITHSTAND THE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE DISCHARGE.

JUST AS FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A BACK-UP CANDIDATE TO SERVE IN HIS STEAD.

ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE, THE POWER SURGE TOOK OUT THE DEVICE TIED-IN TO PRAYDA'S NEURAL IMPLANTS, LEAVING THE FORMER HIGH COUNCILOR TO SPEND OUT THE REST OF HIS DAYS AS A VEGETABLE.

I'D STILL PREFER IT WAS HIS ANCESTOR THIS HAPPENED TO.

AS FOR KNUCKLES--

--ALTHOUGH IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A SIMPLE EXAMINATION, IT APPEARS I TRIGGERED OFF SOMETHING FAR MORE DEVASTATING THAN I ANTICIPATED--

--AND IN THE PROCESS, DISCOVERED A REALM OF POSSIBILITIES TO PURSUE IN THE FUTURE. DEFINITELY A MAJOR VICTORY!

NEXT ISSUE: JOIN KEN, MANNY & ANDREW AS THEY PRESENT TO YOU, AT LONG LAST, THE SECRET HISTORY OF KNUCKLES AS HE AND LOCKE ARE FINALLY REUNITED IN THIS YEAR'S MOST OFFBEAT TALE ...

CHILDHOOD'S END!



OFF PANEL

by Gallagher & Manak

THIS JUST IN!

What's up, Hog & Knux fans? As you know, we get a lot of mail (and I do mean A LOT!!!) in the Sonic and Knuckles office every day. I'm not just talking about snail mail either, we receive hundreds of e-mails as well. Most talk about their interest in the book and what's going on in recent issues. Others ask so many questions it can make your head spin right off like a top. And still many others discuss their collection and how to complete it by searching for the missing issues. The ones I want to discuss in this editorial are the ones for many of our freelance talent. There are many fans who want to write directly to them, specifically to the writers and artists who make our favorite characters come to life. Well, if you are one of those fans, here's how to do it. If you forward it to us we will gladly send it to whomever you want to write to. Just simply send your letters to:

Sonic & Knuckles Talent
Attn: (Name of person)
c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box #419
Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419

P.S.: Ken Penders does have a website of his own you could write to at: www.kenpenders.com

J.F. GABRIE
Editor

Catch you on the flip side!

Send letters to:

FISTFUL OF LETTERS #24

C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.

P.O. BOX #419

MAMARONECK, NY 10543

E-MAIL: jfredgyg@archiecomics.com

WEBSITE: www.archiecomics.com

SEGA WEBSITE: www.sega.com

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

Re: KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #19-
#21 (The Forbidden Zone)-

Dear editor,

The Forbidden Zone trilogy has amazed me with its incredible artwork and unbelievable scripts! The writing was excellent, as always. Ken Penders never ceases to amaze me. I can't wait to see what happens when Elias returns home. He really is sort of handsome, isn't he? Also, here's hoping that Tobor finds his rightful place in Haven. I've been wondering... is that Shinginta thing on the wall a sound effect or something that Moritori scrawled on there? This book will always be an unending source of entertainment for me and you can always count on me to read every one that comes out. I've enclosed my mailing address and e-mail address in case any fans want to talk. Keep up the way past cool work!

Reanna King (age 15)

3024 Conch Avenue

Eau Claire, WI 54601

oikirena@mail.altoona.asd.k12.wi.us

Thanks, Reanna. We really appreciate your praise for The Forbidden Zone story. I hope we can keep creating stories to satisfy you and our other readers the way this one did. The Shinginta thing was not a sound effect, it was something Moritori Rex (the fake Tobor) wrote on the wall before escaping out of Haven.

Dear Knuckles,

I like you and Sonic. I thought you were a bad guy because I played the game SONIC 3. You knocked Sonic out when he was

Super Sonic and stole the Chaos Emeralds from him. Now, for the questions: 1) How do you fly? I don't see wings on you. 2) Are you a real species of animal? I never heard of echidnas. 3) What's that white mark on you? Well, see ya!

George Jian
Bronx, NY

You must remember that Knuckles was tricked by Robotnik to think that Sonic was the bad guy. That's why they fought. Since then, they've learned to become good friends. Now to answer your questions: 1) Knuckles doesn't need wings to fly, that power comes from his ability to connect with the Chaos Emerald. He just recently learned of this connection and is still learning how to use and harness those powers. 2) Echidnas are for real (check out your dictionary or encyclopedia. If you don't believe me). They are actually spiny anteaters from Australia and New Zealand. 3) That mark is hereditary. It's been passed down from male guardian to male guardian.

Dear Knuckles Staff,

First of all, I'd like to say you all do a great job! I always enjoy reading Knuckles comics. In Knux #21, it says, "You're here regarding the craft that carried Elias here over some fifteen years ago, aren't you?" but in past issues, you've said Sally is fifteen, and the Robotnik's coup happened when she was five (and I know Sonic must be a couple of months older because he just turned sixteen) so how can Elias be fifteen years old if he was a baby when the coup happened?

Thank,
SonicGurl@aol.com

Elias was about five when the craft disappeared which was during the Great War. Sally, at that time, was still an infant. Five years later, the Great War finally ended and Robotnik's coup happened not too soon after that. That would make Elias about twenty years old. Hope this clears the confusion.

To Fistful of Letters,

When I read KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #20, I was so happy to find out that Prince Elias is rightful heir to the throne of the Kingdom of Acorn! If Sally's not the heiress anymore, then she will not have to undergo the rite and she won't have to leave Sonic! Hooray!!!

E. Miller

EMiller152@aol.com

No doubt the return of Elias will change everything back in Sonic's book. But Sally isn't the only one having to deal with family secrets, our own favorite echidna is dealing with guardian secrets galore and will come to head next issue. Check out the coming attractions for more on that.

Well, that's it for this month. Thank you all for your comments. See you in thirty. And remember...

KEEP COOL!

Cover by Patrick Spaziante and Ken Penders. Colors and separations by Laughton Huggins and Heroic Age.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In two weeks: We've billed it as the strangest issue of Sonic you will ever read! Why? It could be because it's a completely backwards issue (and boy, do we mean it)! It has a lot to do with Knothole Village being in danger because it's three hours ahead. Just wait 'til you see what happens when Sonic tries to save it. Story by Karl Bollers with art by Steven Butler and Pam Eklund. Also: Tails and Amy visit the library. By Ken Penders, Art Mawhinney and Jim Amash!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #71 on sale late March 1999!



Next Month: The cover says it all -- Knuckles comes face to face with his father. This is the father/son reunion we've wanted to see since issue #1... and now it's finally here. There will be some surprises (especially when Knux's origin is finally revealed!) so don't miss it! "Childhood's End" is written by Ken Penders with art by Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy! Cover by Patrick Spaziante, Ken Penders and Heroic Age with a silver-inked cover for this silver anniversary issue.

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #25 on sale early April 1999!



KNUX FAN ART



Meghan Taylor
(age 13)
Thorhild, Alberta
CANADA



DW Benjes
Nelson
NEW ZEALAND



Travis Ord
Anaheim Hills, CA



Jake Casaletto
(age 8)
Grand Rapids, MI

If you'd like your drawing printed, please send to:
KNUX FAN ART #24
c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box #419 Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419
ART WILL NOT BE RETURNED!



PRO ART BY
SAM MAXWELL.
COLOR AND ENJOY!

- ☐ NO. 18 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 24 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 26 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 27 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 28 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 29 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 30 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 31 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 32 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 33 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 34 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 35 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 36 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 37 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 38 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 39 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 40 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 41 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 42 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 43 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 44 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 45 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 46 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 51 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)
- ☐ NO. 52 - \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)

- ☐ **SONIC END GAME SERIES** * (END)
(4 issues #47 - #48 - #49 - #50)
\$7.00 (\$8.00 - CAN)
- ☐ **SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS KNUCKLES** * (SNK)
(3 issue mini-series)
\$6.00 (\$7.00 - CAN)
- ☐ **TAILS 3 ISSUE MINI-SERIES** * (TLS)
\$6.00 (\$7.00 - CAN)
- ☐ **SONIC QUEST "THE DEATH EGG SAGA"** * (SDS)
(3 issue mini-series)
\$6.00 (\$7.00 - CAN)
- ☐ **KNUCKLES "THE DARK LEGION"** (KDL)
(3 issues #1 - #2 - #3)
\$4.50 (\$5.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **KNUCKLES "LOST PARADISE"** (KDL)
(3 issues #4 - #5 - #6)
\$4.50 (\$5.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **KNUCKLES "DARK VENGEANCE"** (KDL)
(3 issues #7 - #8 - #9)
\$4.50 (\$5.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **PRINCESS SALLY** * (PS)
(3 issue mini-series)
\$6.00 (\$7.00 - CAN)

☐ **SONIC "FIRSTS"** (SGN)
(Trade Paperback)
\$4.95 (\$5.95 - CAN)

- ☐ **SONIC & KNUCKLES*** (SAK)
(48 pg. Special)
\$3.00 (\$3.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **SONIC IN YOUR FACE*** (BIF)
(48 pg. Special)
\$3.00 (\$3.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **SONIC BLAST*** (SOB)
(48 pg. Special)
\$3.00 (\$3.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **SONIC CHAOTIX*** (CHX)
(48 pg. Special)
\$3.00 (\$3.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **SONIC TRIPLE TROUBLE*** (STT)
(48 pg. Special)
\$3.00 (\$3.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **SONIC & KNUCKLES
MECHA MADNESS*** (SMM)
(48 pg. Special)
\$3.00 (\$3.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **SUPER SONIC VS
HYPER KNUCKLES*** (SVK)
(48 pg. Special)
\$3.00 (\$3.50 - CAN)
- ☐ **SONIC LIVE!*** (SLS)
(48 pg. Special)
\$3.00 (\$3.50 - CAN)

SONIC SUPER SPECIALS (SSQ)
(48 pg. Specials) \$2.50 (\$3.00 - CAN)

- ☐ #1 BATTLE ROYAL
- ☐ #2 BRAVE NEW WORLD
- ☐ #3 SONIC FIRSTS
- ☐ #4 RETURN OF THE KING
- ☐ #5 SONIC KIDS
- ☐ #6 SONIC DIRECTOR'S CUT
- ☐ #7 IMAGE/SONIC CROSSOVER

ORDER
WHILE
SUPPLIES
LAST!

AVAILABLE IN U.S. & CANADA ONLY. All Canadian orders must be made payable in U.S. funds.

YOU CAN MAKE A COPY OF THIS AD IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TEAR THIS PAGE OUT OF YOUR BOOK.